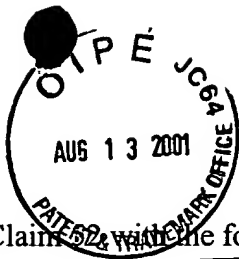


**IN THE CLAIMS:**



Please replace Claim 52 with the following:

52. (Amended) A freestanding panel assembly for a modular office furniture system, the panel assembly comprising:

a rigid frame assembly having a top portion and a bottom portion, the rigid frame assembly further comprised of:

- i) a plurality of vertical supports having opposing sides; and
- ii) a pair of bottom facing panels, one each of said bottom facing panels attached to the bottom portion of each of said opposing side panels whereby a box beam structure is fabricated to form the rigid frame assembly;

a plurality of facing panels;

means for individually mounting each of said plurality of facing panels to the rigid frame assembly such that a plurality of unobstructed cavities are formed between the rigid frame assembly and each of said plurality of facing panels; and

a crown member attached to the top portion of the rigid frame assembly.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 19-26 and 41-51.

RECEIVED

AUG 16 2001

**In the Specification:**

This patent application is a continuation of our patent application titled, "HYBRID OFFICE PANEL CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODULAR OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEM" filed on May 28, 1997 and assigned Serial No. 08/864,138, now U.S. Patent No. 6,167,565.

MAIL ROOM

?